

## **METHODS FOR PRESERVING BLOOD**

### Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods for preserving donated blood and blood products are described, including embodiments which involve the application of a preservation effective amount of electromagnetic energy from a laser or other electromagnetic energy source, the energy having a wavelength in the visible to near-infrared wavelength range and delivering the effective amount of energy includes selecting a predetermined power density ( $\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$ ) of energy to deliver to the blood. The methods can be used in combination with other blood preservation techniques including hypothermic storage and the use of preservative compositions.

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